

# Trinity Alps Wilderness Trails

## Scott River Ranger District

A small portion (about 15,000 acres) representing the northern fringe of the massive Trinity Alps Wilderness lies on the Scott River District. This area has much to offer in the form of day trips to lakes and scenic wilderness vistas. The terrain is typically steep, forested ridges breaking into alpine meadows and bare rock. Glacial cirques have created lakes at the headwaters of most streams.

**A Wilderness permit is required for overnight stays in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, available at trailheads or any U. S. Forest Service office. Party size limit is 10 people.**

- 1. Little Mill:** Little Mill Trail accesses a lightly used, very scenic portion of the Trinity Alps. Above the small 6590 feet elevation lake are old mine shafts and a cross county route to Washbasin Lake. The connecting trail to East Boulder is obscure in places.
- 2. East Boulder:** A relatively short trail of 2 miles leads to a popular 32-acre lake. The lake is at 6,676 feet and is in an open, panoramic basin surrounded by rocky peaks. Just below the lake is a nice cascading stream. Trails connect with Little Mill to the east, the PCT to the south and Middle Boulder to the west.
- 3. Middle Boulder:** A good day hike with some steep pitches leads to Middle Boulder Lake. The lake is at 6,500 feet and is 12 feet deep and 6.5 acres in size. A secondary trail not recommended for stock connects Middle Boulder Lake with East Boulder Lake to the northeast.
- 4. Telephone Lake:** About halfway to Middle Boulder, take the signed trail to the west for about a mile and a half to Telephone Lake. The lake is at 6,900 feet and is 30 feet deep and 3.5 acres in size.
- 5. Fox Creek Ridge:** A moderately difficult trail accessing several backcountry lakes. Located about 4 miles up the moderately steep trail, Fox Creek Lake is at 6,600 feet and is 9.5 acres in size and 38 feet deep. A short detour about 3 1/2 miles from Fox Creek trailhead leads to Mavis Lake. The lake is at 6,700 feet and is 6.5 acres and 16 feet deep. Cross-country through the rocks will get you to Virginia and Section Line Lakes.
- 7. South Fork Lakes:** An excellent pair of lakes located at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Scott River is accessed by this steep trail. The best approach is from Carter Meadows Summit via the PCT south, to the trail junction, where one turns right and begins the climb. Portions of this trail are uncomfortably steep for most horsemen. It is recommended that stock be left in the meadow basin located below the lakes.
- 8. Pacific Crest Trail:** Head north from Carter Meadows Summit for destinations between here and Canada, or south to Mexico. But in the immediate area, the PCT ties together trail destinations in the Russian Wilderness to the north and the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the south.
- 9. Hidden Lake:** A short, fairly easy trail leads to a small lake and scenic vistas. Good for day trips. Take the PCT south from Carter Meadows for about thirty yards to the signed junction. Take the trail to the right for about a mile and you are there. There is a short segment of rocky trail on this route, which is hazardous to stock.

**10. Trail Gulch:** This trail accesses Trail Gulch Lake, which is a sister to Long Gulch Lake. The trailhead is less than a mile from the Long Gulch Trail. Trail Gulch Lake is 14 acres in size and 21 feet deep. Nicely situated in rugged country, it is popular for day trips including a few hours fishing.

**11. Long Gulch:** This is a popular trail. Long Gulch Lake is located approximately 4 miles from the trailhead and is 10 acres in size and 47 feet deep. The trail continues past the lake's outlet to the ridge top along an improved grade. At the ridge top, you can continue to the northeast towards Trail Gulch Lake in the adjacent drainage. This makes for an excellent loop trip.

**12. Fish Lake:** An easy 2-mile hike leads to Fish Lake. The modest lake, more like a pond is situated in a rocky basin and is popular with local fishermen. If you want more of a challenge, turn left (east) before Fish Lake and climb the trail to the ridge top before dropping down into Long Gulch Lake. This portion of the trail is steep and rocky.

**13. Twin Lakes:** Slightly over a mile up the Fish Lake Trail, the trail forks to the right. Follow this trail for another 3/4 mile to Twin Lakes. The westerly of two small ponds used to be called "Sedge Lake". It is one acre in size and is 3 feet deep. The elevation is 6,400 feet.